

THE following lectures will be delivered during February at the Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Road, at 8.30 p.m. :— February 5, "Germs, Our Friends and Foes," by Mr. J. E. Purvis; February 12, "The Eastern Hemisphere," by Mr. E. J. Garwood; February 19, "An Old English Chemist of the Seventeenth Century," by Dr. Donnan; February 26, "Life of the Natives of Sarawak," by Prof. Haddon.

THE new volume of "The Englishwoman's Year Book and Directory for 1901" (A. and C. Black) has been overlooked until now. The value of this annual lies in the fact that it is a guide to spheres of activity open to women, and a summary of women's contributions to intellectual progress during the past year. The scientific summary is not complete, but it serves to show that women are assisting in the advancement of many departments of natural knowledge.

THE only journal in the world devoted entirely to the study of ophthalmological refraction is the *Dioptric and Ophthalmometric Review*, published for and by the Council of the British Optical Association. In addition to the articles, abstracts and notes of special value to opticians, the review contains contributions of interest to all students of optical science. We notice, for instance, descriptions of recent optical patents, and the questions set at the examination of the British Optical Association in December.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include three Martinican Doves (*Zenaida aurita*) from the West Indies, presented by Mr. D. Seth Smith; a White-backed Piping-Crow (*Gymnorhina leuconota*) from Australia, presented by Miss Crowder; a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), European, presented by Mr. Alfred Ficken; a Greater Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), European, presented by the Hon. Mrs. Barnett; a Himalayan Monkey (*Macacus assamensis*) from Northern India, a Mozambique Monkey (*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*) from East Africa, a Two-spotted Paradoxure (*Nandinia binotata*), a Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), a Shining Weaver Bird (*Hypocheira nilens*) from West Africa, a Barbary Wild Sheep (*Ovis tragelaphus*) from North Africa, a Barbary Falcon (*Falco barbarus*) captured in the Red Sea, nine Ceylonese Terrapins (*Nicoria trijuga*) from India, deposited; a Naked-throated Bell-bird (*Chasmorhynchus nudicollis*) from Brazil, purchased.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

ASTRONOMICAL OCCURRENCES IN FEBRUARY.

- Feb. 1. 6h. 32m. to 7h. 18m. Moon occults D.M. +17°, 1596 (mag. 5'6).
- 2. 17h. 20m. to 17h. 42m. Moon occults A¹ Cancri, (mag. 5'6).
- 2. 18h. 57m. to 19h. 47m. Moon occults A² Cancri, (mag. 5'8).
- 3. 14h. 34m. to 15h. 37m. Moon occults ω Leonis, (mag. 5'6).
- 9. 17h. 38m. to 18h. 53m. Moon occults B.A.C. 4700 (mag. 5'3).
- 14. Venus. Illuminated portion of disc = '949, of Mars = '997.
- 14. Saturn. Outer minor axis of outer ring = 15"·08.
- 14. 17h. Jupiter in conjunction with the moon. Jupiter 2° 51' S.
- 14. 19h. 7m. Jupiter's Satellite IV. in conjunction N. of the planet.
- 15. 11h. 20m. Minimum of Algol (β Persei).
- 18. 8h. 9m. Minimum of Algol (β Persei).
- 19. 10h. Mercury at greatest elongation, 18° 6' East.
- 20. 1h. Mercury in conjunction with the moon. Mercury 3° 29' S.

- 21. 6h. 54m. to 7h. 51m. Moon occults 51 Piscium (mag. 5'7).
- 21. 18h. Mars in opposition to the sun.
- 22. 10h. 20m. to 11h. 7m. Moon occults π Piscium (mag. 5'6).
- 24. 16h. 20m. to 19h. 13m. Transit of Jupiter's Satellite III.

BROOKS' MINOR PLANETS.—Referring to the recent note in NATURE (January 3) announcing the discovery of three new minor planets near to Eros, Herr Kreutz publishes, in the current issue of the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, Bd. 154, No. 3682, a telegram from Prof. E. C. Pickering, of Harvard College, saying: "Brooks' asteroids not confirmed on simultaneous plate; stars near position given."

BROSEN'S COMET.—In the *Astronomische Nachrichten* (Bd. 154, No. 3681), A. Berberich gives an ephemeris to facilitate the search for the expected return of Brosen's Comet this year.

Ephemeris for Oh. Berlin Mean Time.

1901.	R.A.	Decl.
	h. m. s.	
Feb. 1	18 59 8	+ 6 11'4
3	54 12	7 15'3
5	50 14	8 7'4
7	47 6	8 49'9
9	44 39	9 24'7
11	42 48	9 53'5
13	18 41 26	+10 17'4

EPHEMERIS FOR OBSERVATIONS OF EROS.

Ephemeris for 12h. Berlin Mean Time.

1901.	R.A.	Decl.	Mag.
	h. m. s.		
Feb. 1	3 43 52'25	+24 52 "	16'6
3	51 13'94	24 3 56'7	8'6
5	3 58 38'03	23 16 0'1	
7	4 6 3'97	22 28 28'6	8'6
9	13 31'30	21 41 24'2	
11	20 59'64	20 54 48'9	8'7
13	28 28'61	20 8 44'7	
15	35 57'91	19 23 13'0	8'8
17	43 27'24	18 38 15'7	
19	50 56'35	17 53 54'5	8'8
21	4 58 24'94	17 10 10'4	
23	5 5 52'72	16 27 4'3	8'9
25	13 19'36	15 44 37'2	
27	5 20 44'55	+15 2 49'5	8'9

ELLIPTIC ELEMENTS OF COMET 1900 c.—Herr H. Kreutz has computed the following elliptic elements of Giacobini's Comet (1900 c) from the determinations of position made on 1900 December 24, 28, and 1901 January 14. (*Astronomische Nachrichten*, Bd. 154, No. 3682).

Epoch 1901 Jan. 14, Berlin Mean Time.

M =	6 45 47'0
ω =	171 29 10'6
g =	196 32 33'8
i =	29 52 16'9
φ =	47 52 35'5
μ =	551"·914
log a =	0'558287.

The following ephemeris by J. Möller is given in the same journal :—

Ephemeris for 12h. Berlin Mean Time.

1901.	R.A.	Decl.	Br.
	h. m. s.		
Feb. 2	2 22 4	-18 11'6	0'32
6	2 37 29	17 9'6	0'28
10	2 52 10	16 6'4	0'24
14	3 6 10	15 3'0	0'21
18	19 33	13 59'8	0'19
22	32 21	12 57'5	0'17
26	3 44 40	-11 56'8	0'15

Observations of the Comet by R. G. Aitken with the 36-in. Lick refractor showed it as irregular in outline, with a condensation south—preceding the centre, and a small fan-shaped extension in the north—following quadrant.